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The humble PETITION AND REPRESENTATION OF Several Churches of God in *London*, commonly (though falsly) called ANABAPTISTS.

Which was presented on Monday the second of *April*, to the

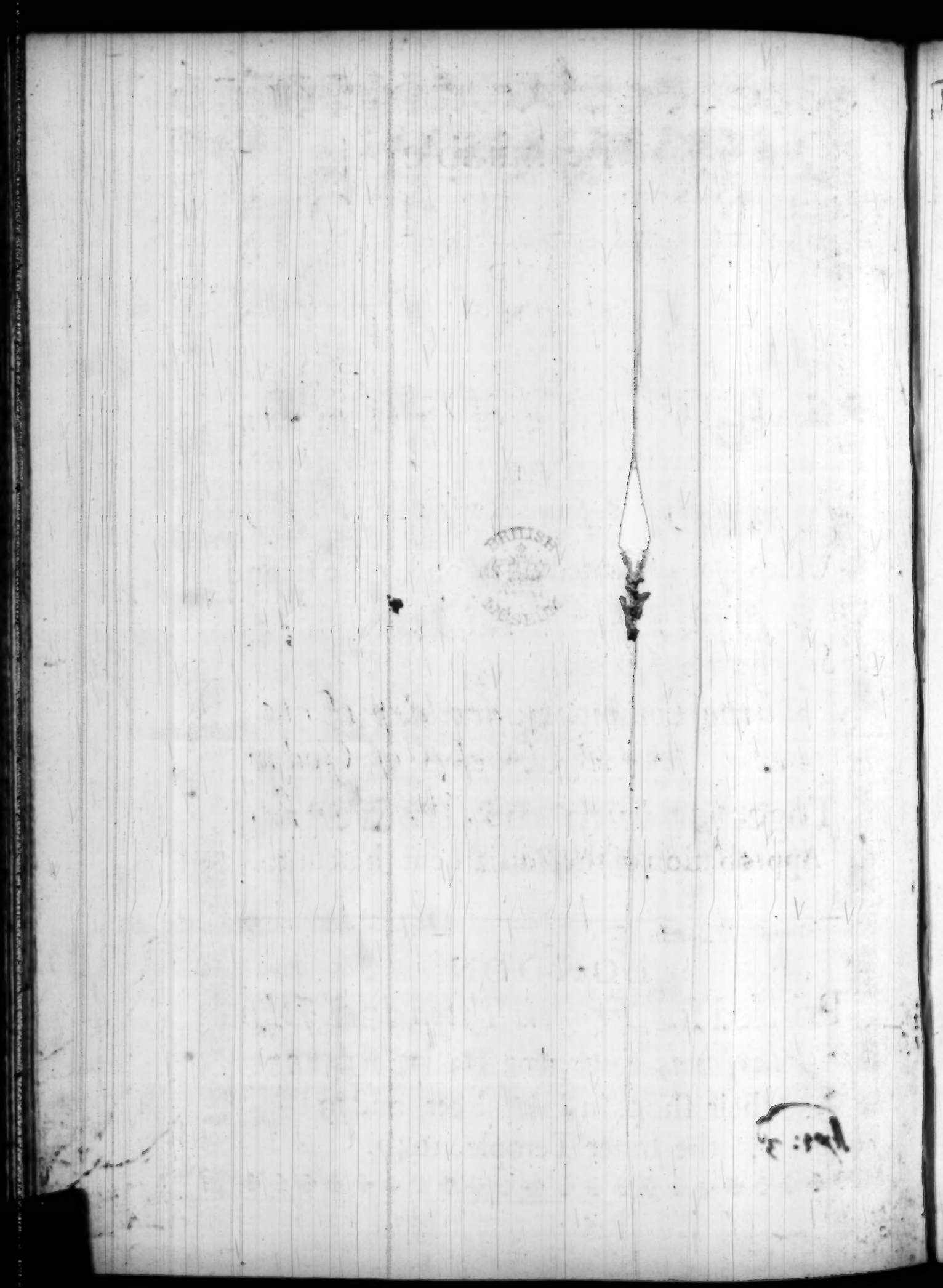
Supream Authority of the Nation, the Commons assembled in PARLIAMENT.

Together with the Answer and Approbation of the Parliament thereunto.

London Anabaptists in.

LONDON,
Printed for *Francis Tyton* and *John Playford*, and are to be sold at their shops in Fleet-street, and in the Inner Temple. 1649.

Apr: 3.



TO THE

Right Honourable

THE

COMMONS of ENGLAND

assembled in

PARLIAMENT;

The humble Petition and Representation of several Churches of God in London, *commonly, though falsly, called Anabaptists;*

Humbly sheweth,

THat when we considered the late unnatural Wars, and the heavy pressures, grievous calamities, spoils and outrages that followed thereupon, our hearts were exceeding sad; yet when we beheld the raging of those waves in a good measure

calmed, we were something cheered in the hopeful expectation of a safe harbour for this Nation, having nigh suffered shipwrack by more then seven years distress.

But with great grief we acknowledg our fears have of late been renewed, by reason of those many obstructions which have interrupted the settlement of the Liberty and Freedom of this distressed Common-wealth, which when we seriously mind, considering also that a Printed Paper, entituled, *The second part of Englands new Chains discovered*, was publikely, read in the time and place of solemn publike meeting on the 25 of *March* last, to the intent, those then present might subscribe it; and well weighing how through the injustice of Historians, or the headiness of some unruly men formerly in *Germany* called *Anabaptists*, our righteous profession heretofore hath been, and now may be made odious, as if it were the Fountain and Source of all Disobedience, Presumption, Self-wil, Contempt of Rulers, Dignities, and Civil Government whatsoever: And fearing if we should be silent, such surmises might justly beget jealousies of us, and our peaceable meetings, both in the thoughts of this Honorable House, and many others: We thought our selves bound in duty to God, to this Honorable House, the Common-wealth, and the Truth, (which is dearer to us then our lives,) humbly to Remonstrate;

That we neither had nor have heart nor hand in the framing, contriving, abetting or promoting of the said Paper, which though read in several of our publike

like meetings, we do solemnly profess it was without our consent or approbation, being there openly opposed by us.

That our meetings are not at all to intermeddle with the ordering or altering Civil Government (which we humbly and submissively leave unto the supream Power,) but solely for the advancement of the Gospel. It being our grief that our meetings should be perverted to any sinister ends, or earthly respects whatsoever, whereby the spiritual seed of the Word should be stifled or hindered, which precious time we earnestly desire with much seriousness and solemnity might be improved to the Worship of our God.

That it hath bin, and ever shal be our endevor in our severall stations & callings, to advance what may tend to the Nations good, wherein we live, no way complying with the disturbers therof; that so we may approve our selves a People never to be justly adjudged heady, high minded, or despisers of them that are in authority; but as much as in us lyes, such as desire to live peaceably and quietly under Magistrates, and with all men.

That we doe thankfully take notice of that good hand of God, in affording to us the mercy of liveing peaceably and quietly without molestation, in the profession of godliness, and honesty, under your Authority and Jurisdiction, hoping, and earnestly praying, that God will be pleased to repair the breaches of this wasted Nation, and cause it, through you, as instruments, more to flourish then in former days.

We beseech you, that what you have found in your hearts to express before all the World for the setling of the Common-wealth, the releiving of the oppressed, removing all the grievances of the people, and providing for the languishing condition of the poor of this Nation: that you would do it speedily, with all your might, that thereby all interests might receive just satisfaction; the want whereof, will certainly occasion matter of sadness to your selves, and hazard to the Nation.

That you would effectually provide for the making, and due execution of sufficient Laws against whoredoms, Drunkenness, Cheating, and all such like abominations (of civil Cognizance) in whomsoever, for which things sake this Land mourns, and the wrath of God is provoked against it: by doing whereof, you will answer the proper end of Magistracy, in being a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well.

And Your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

Die Lunæ, 2. April. 1649.

THe Houſe being informed, that divers Petitioners were at the Door, they were Ordered to be called in, and being come to the Bar, Mr KIFFIN preſented a Petition, ſpeaking to this effect; Mr Speaker, we have not troubled this honorable Houſe with any Petition, nor had done it now, had not we been neceſſitated thereunto by a late Paper called Englands ſecond Chains, brought to our Congregations, and publiquely read in ſome of our publique Meetings, without our conſent or approbation, being there openly oppoſed by us, and we could do no leſs, in conſcience of our duty to God and you, then to diſown and diſavow it.

The Petition being received, which was entituled thus; The humble Petition and Repreſentation of ſeveral Churches of God in London, commonly though falſly, called Anabaptiſts, the Petitioners withdrew, and the Petition was read.

The

The Petitioners being again called in, Mr Speaker returned them this Answer:

The House doth take notice of the good Affection to the Parliament and Publique, you have expresst both in this Petition and otherways; That they have received satisfaction thereby, concerning your disclaiming of that Pamphlet, which gave such just Offence to the Parliament, and also concerning your disposition to live peaceably, and in submission to the civil Magistracy: Your expressions whereof they account very christian and seasonable: That for your selves and other Christians walking answerable to such Professions, as in this Petition you make, They do assure you of Liberty and protection, so far as God shall enable them, in all things consistent with Godliness, Honesty and civil Peace: And the House doth give you leave to print your Petition.

Hen: Scobel,
Cler Parliament.

FINIS.

P.P. London. K

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The Weekly Passages in *Parliament*; The Proceedings of the Councell of State, and the High Court of Justice; With other choice Intelligence from the Lord *Fairfax's* Army, from the Navy at Sea, and the most Remarkable Newes from Forraigne parts.

Aprill. 5. 1649. Imprimatur *Theodore Iennings.*

From Wednesday March 28. *to Wednesday April* 4. 1649.

London, Printed by *J. C.* and are to be sold neer Cripplegate, and at the Royall Exchange in Cornhill, 1649.

Beginning Wednesday March 28.

THis day the House of Commons Ordered these following Votes to be printed, to be sent into all parts of the land to the severall Counties.

1. *Resolved by the Commons assembled in Parliament*, That Sir *John Stowell* Knight be proceeded against for life in the upper Bench.

Resolved &c. That *David Ienkin* be proceeded against for a tryall for life; And that the Judges in that Circuit in *Wales*, be required to proceed to an Indictment against him, in the proper County in the next Assises.

Resolved, &c. That *Charles Stuart* eldest son to the late King, *James Stuart* second son of the late King, the Duke of *Buckingham*, *Iohn* Earl of *Bristoll*, *William* Earl of *Newcastle*, Sir *Wil. Widdrington*, *George* Lord *Digby*, Sir *Philip Musgrave*, Sir *Marmaduke Langdale*, Sir *Rich. Greenvile*, Sir *Francis Doddington*, Sir *Iohn Culpepper*, Sir *John Byron*,